

**Buckley
Elementary
School**

Bobcat News

A Great Place
to Grow and
Explore

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Principal's Corner

December 2014

Dear Buckley Families:

I can't believe that as I write this, it is only 30 degrees outside! It seems like yesterday that it was over 90 degrees! With that said, during November, we were busy preparing for December conferences, and getting ready for our many winter activities including the Winter Concert and Barnes and Noble Night. With a very busy season upon us, I would like to share a few thoughts that may be helpful for your child.

Try and keep a regular routine with school work including homework. I know this may be difficult, but if you keep a regular routine, your child will benefit.

Try and keep a regular bedtime. With so many activities such as the Barnes and Noble Night, it is always helpful that regular bedtime will keep all children well rested and ready for school!

I truly understand that December is filled with many exciting activities but a regular routine will prove to be beneficial for all.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone for their support and participation in the Buckley Celebrates 60 years! This was a great evening that took place on November 20th from 6:00-7:30! It truly showed how we are a community that supports one another for the benefit of **ALL** students! I want to thank everyone who spent so much time working on this evening from the Buckley Staff to the many volunteers (retired teachers, staff, parents, etc.). While I would love to name everyone, I don't want to miss out on anyone. In short, Thank you!

I would like to remind you that the Buckley School staff is in the final stages of completing our School Improvement Plan. As we have done in the past, Buckley staff worked on this together. I anticipate having this plan to you no later than December 23rd.

Bobcat Central

250 Vernon Street
Manchester, CT
06042

Phone:

(860)647-3302

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(860)647-5007

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(860)647-3344

Nurse:

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During December, we have a few activities that I would like to draw to your attention.

- Book Fair December 1st – 5th
- Report Card Conferences December 2nd – 4th
- Barnes and Noble Night December 8th
- December 10th 1:17 early dismissal
- Winter Concert December 16th
- Holiday Store December 19th

Please note that our winter concert is scheduled for December 16th @ 2:00. Please know that seating is very limited. Because of the limited seating, I am asking that families have no more than 2 adults attend. I appreciate your assistance and cooperation regarding this.

In addition, I mentioned in my last newsletter that I will be having a coffee with the Principal. This meeting is intended to have parents/guardians come to Buckley and meet with me to ask any questions you may have about our school! **I am planning to have this coffee meeting on December 16th from 9:30-10:30.** More information will be forthcoming.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our December conferences!

I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe Holiday season! I wish you and your family a Happy New Year!

Fondly,

Matthew Daly

Matthew Daly,
Principal





Manchester Public Schools

Buckley Elementary School

250 Vernon Street

Manchester, CT 06042

www.mpspride.org

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Principal

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A Great Place to Grow and Explore

October 24, 2014

Dear Parent/Guardians,

As you know, we have specific procedures to dropping off and picking up your child. The purpose of this letter is to remind everyone of these procedures and alert you to a necessary change. In addition, I have also provided you with a reminder of our procedures for visiting Buckley.

In order to alleviate some traffic issues in the front, I suggest that, if your child is in grades 3-5, utilize the back parking lot via Barry Road for both drop-offs and pick-ups. As a guide for the back parking lot area off Barry Road, please follow the protocol outlined below:

Please park on the right hand side. When entering the parking lot, please pull all the way down. After picking up your child, please follow the parking lot and make a loop to turn around and exit the parking lot. Please drive slowly and watch for children.

If your child is in grades K-2, I am asking that you utilize the front of the building specifically, the circle for drop-off and pick-up. Please remember not to double park your car in the circle during the morning or afternoon. Due to an increase in the number of parents/guardians picking their child up in this circle, **I am asking that if there are no spots available, please do not continue to move around the circle as this is dangerous with students getting into cars.** Instead, please use the parking lot in the back of the building or off Barry Road. Please continue to use the protocol outlined below:

If you are using the circle to drop off your child, please park on the right hand side of the circle.

Please **DO NOT** stop in the middle of the circle to drop-off your child. This creates a traffic jam and is unsafe for our children. Also, please do not park on the inside of the circle.

Please walk your children to and from the building after parking your car.

Please drive slowly and watch for children.

In our continued effort to provide a structured and safe environment here at Buckley, please first stop by the main office when visiting your child's classroom, volunteering your time or attending an event.

Please sign in at the main office and we will provide you with a Visitor Sticker.

Also, if you are picking up your child early or are changing the normal routine with respect to drop-off/pick-up, please write a note to your child's teacher and the main office. This will insure that we have the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding your child.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Daly
Principal

Pride in Excellence





MONTH of DECEMBER 2014

Sun-day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat-urday
	1 B Day Book Fair	2 C Day 1:17 DISMISSAL CONFERENCES BOOK FAIR	3 A Day 1:17 DISMISSAL CONFERENCES BOOK FAIR	4 B Day 1:17 DISMISSAL CONFERENCES BOOK FAIR	5 C Day	6
7	8 A Day Barnes & Noble Nite 5:30 p.m.	9 B Day	10 C Day 1:17 DIMISSAL	11 A Day	12 B Day Pep Rally 2:30	13
14	15 C Day	16 A Day Winter Concert 2:00	17 B Day	18 C Day	19 A Day Holiday Store Fun Friday 2:30	20
21	22 B Day Holiday Store Snow date	23 C Day	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Kindergarten

November was a busy month for us in kindergarten. We are practicing our letters and sounds. We have started to use our “sound and say” strategy to read new words. We are also learning new sight words every week. We are learning how to apply our knowledge of letter sounds to our reading and writing. In math, we are finishing up our unit on numbers 1-20. Next we will begin our unit on addition. The children will be introduced to the concept of joining numbers together. Please practice number identification and counting with your child at home. December will be a busy month for us. We will be learning about families, and focusing on generosity. The students are looking forward to their holiday parties. Please be sure to check your child’s folder daily. There are many upcoming events in December. We look forward to meeting with you for Report Card Conferences to share your child’s progress. The students have done a great job adjusting to kindergarten and we look forward to sharing their accomplishments with you! Thank you.

Mrs. Hoffman and Miss Lavallee

First Grade

Happy Holidays! We hope you had a wonderful time with family and friends over the Thanksgiving break. We have been working very hard to build our reading fluency and comprehension. Your child has been learning to decode words with long vowel sounds. They are also learning how to spell words with patterns. Please take time to continue to read with your child during this busy season. The best way to grow as a reader is to READ!

In math we have been working on building addition and subtraction strategies. We have also been working on problem solving. Please continue to practice your math facts at home.

We look forward to seeing all of you conferences. We are truly grateful for all you do!

Thank you.

Sincerely

Ms. Seaha, Mrs. Bourcier and Ms. Patrylak



Second Grade

The second graders of Buckley have been working very hard to demonstrate Buckley Bobcat behavior and have been doing a magnificent job at being safe, respectful and responsible! This month, the students will be focusing their studies on folktales such as fables, fairytales, and realistic fiction! Be sure to ask your child if he or she can identify the moral of the story along with the author's message, as we will continue our focus on story elements along with interpretation to provoke higher order thinking.

In writing, we are shifting our instruction from composing "small moment" narratives to opinion pieces! Students will continue to practice utilizing the writing process as they craft letters including arguments supporting their ideas about characters within stories they have read.

This past month, the students have been gearing up for our two and three digit addition/subtraction unit through practicing place value concepts. This upcoming month, you will see your child utilizing a variety of strategies (open number line, model form, number bond, traditional algorithm method, etc.). Students are encouraged to represent their mathematical thinking in multiple ways through using these strategies. You can practice this at home with your child by asking him or her to solve equations such as $45+69=$ _____. Challenge your child to explain his/her math thinking!

Thank you for your continued supports in partnering with the second grade teachers in ensuring that your child has the best educational experience here at Buckley School! Thank you.
Miss Adams and Mrs. Strickland

Third Grade

Happy December! In reading we are beginning our unit on Non-Fiction. Our essential questions for the unit are: How do readers understand the broad range of text structures? How do readers apply strategies to fluently read and comprehend informational text? How do readers build knowledge on a subject through research and respond analytically through literacy and informational sources by conveying original thoughts and ideas? Please encourage your child to take out several non-fiction books from the Public Library. Ask them to read an appropriate article from the newspaper and ask them questions about what they learned. In addition, several websites offer age appropriate news and articles such as www.scholasticnews.com, NASA for Kids and National Geographic for Kids.

In Math, we will be exploring multiplication and division, and the distributive, associative, and communicative properties of multiplication. Our students need to know many strategies to solve the equations, such as number line, groups of, arrays, missing number, skip counting, and drawing pictures. They need to know what a factor is, groups of, product, quotient, dividend, and divisor. Please ask your child to show you two ways to solve a problem and if it is a multiplication problem, ask them to tell you the related division problem! Thank you. Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Sweetland, Mr. Murphy

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade students would like to start by thanking the Buckley Bobcats who participated in the annual Trick or Treat for UNICEF campaign. This is the second time Buckley students raised over \$500! This is enough money to purchase a water pump for a village. Since we raised \$603 they will be able to purchase a bicycle for delivering medication too. Thank you for your generosity.

During December it's all nonfiction all the time. The children are writing books about American Indians; please ask your child what topic they are working on. At the end of the unit we will have books about weapons, tools, music, food, dance, and much more. The books will include a variety of nonfiction text features.

In Math the students are working on "operations and algebraic thinking". Through multi step word problems the children are discovering how the four operations relate to real life situations. The students are required to use equations with a letter standing for the unknown quantity. They need to interpret remainders. The language of the new curriculum can be tricky. They are also looking at patterns and relationships. We wish you a happy healthy holiday season. Thank you. Ms. Godbout, Ms. Marocchini,, and Mrs. Hoke



Fifth Grade

We are looking forward to meeting with all of you and discussing how to best meet the needs of your children! See you soon!

Please continue to encourage your child to read, read, read!

We hope you have a happy and healthy holiday season. Enjoy the time with family and friends.

Thank you.

Miss Brahm, Mrs. Jodoin, and Mrs. Adinolfi

MAP News

Last month, our theme was Thanksgiving. We talked about what we are thankful for this year. Our circle rhymes were, 5 Little Turkeys and Thanksgiving Colors. We made foam turkeys and read stories about Thanksgiving. The books we read were Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving by Dav Pilkey, Thanksgiving Is For Giving Thanks by Margaret Sutherland, and Arthur's Thanksgiving by Marc Brown. We enjoyed spending Thanksgiving with our families.

This month we will introduce winter. We will talk about the specific clothing we will need for cold weather. We will also include winter traditions and celebrations. Thank you.

Mrs. Rodowicz

Coaches Corner

When doing your holiday shopping this year, you can't go wrong with gifts that build your child's literacy and numeracy skills!

Books always make excellent gifts -- books for your child to read on their own or books to share with your child at bedtime. Writing supplies such as stationary and special pens provide your child with the tools they need to become aspiring writers. Board and card games are great for building math skills, problem solving, and critical thinking skills.

The best thing a parent can do for their child is to foster a love for learning at home. Thank you for making learning a valuable part of your family time together!

Mrs. O'Malley & Mrs. Miner



Specials

P.E.

Over the past two months the fourth graders have been preparing for the CT Physical Fitness Assessment. The results are pretty good! Most all of the students were successful with the curlups, pushups, and the Sit'N'Reach. Students struggled with the PACER, I think with more practice during PE and at home, the students will have more success when we practice the PACER again in the spring.

Students in all other grades have been participating in celebration games, pathways, and volleying skills. Thank you. Mr. Kolze and Miss Falkowski

ART

It is hard to believe how fast time has been going! In Kindergarten, students are continuing to practice their cutting and gluing skills as we manipulate paper to create a paper sculpture of a turkey. In first grade, we created a collage of the jungle. Just like Henri Rousseau, we used our imaginations to create interesting plants and leaves for our jungle. We gave our jungle a three-dimensional quality when we added a vine for our monkey to swing from. In second grade, we are just beginning a picture of a Cow! We will make our cow part of a picture in which we learn about the different parts of a landscape. Third graders have been painting and finishing up a Still-Life picture of a Cornucopia. In Fourth grade, we have begun creating a collage in which we show movement through repetition of a figure in action, color, and pattern. Fifth graders are starting to create a design in which they learn about radial symmetry. Don't forget that art materials and drawing books can make great holiday gifts for your young artists! Have a wonderful holiday season! Thank you.

~Mrs. Maloney, Art

MUSIC

Greetings from the music room!

November was another busy month for us in the music room. Students continued to adjust to a new room and a new teacher. Each class learned new songs (including their winter concert songs) and music activities.

Kindergarteners have been creatively singing "Aiken Drum" and imagining what he looks like as well as creative unique movements to go with our poem "Ali Baba." Kindergarteners have also had lots of fun singing their concert song about a very famous reindeer! First graders have been singing and dancing to songs all about ships with songs like "Our Gallant Ship" and "Haul Away Joe." They are also singing about all the fun winter things they can do with their concert song "In the Snow." Second graders are hard at work learning to read music, and having fun playing Boom Whackers at the same time. Additionally, the second grade classes are pairing together for their winter concert song, "A Perfect Winter Day," about the two sides of winter - you're either happily playing in the snow, or at home with a head cold!

Third graders have been working very hard on their note-reading skills. They have been testing themselves with the challenging Mad Music Minute every class. Besides that, the third graders are singing about peace and happiness in their concert song "I Wish." Fourth graders have been thoroughly enjoying their work with the "Cup Song" rhythm pattern. Additionally, each class has been composing new patterns in small groups as well as a unique class pattern; they are enjoying incorporating these patterns with their concert song "Northern Lights." Fifth graders are continuing to work on their concert songs in chorus, but music class has been focused on learning to play ukuleles and xylophones. We just finished learning to play and sing "Oh Susanna" and we are moving on to "Simple Gifts" where we will learn all new chords. The fifth graders continue to listen to examples of American folk music at the beginning of each class.

Happy holidays, keep warm and keep singing! Thank you.

Ms. Petersen



to

Nurse's Corner

Happy December from the Nurse's office!

Please send students to school dressed for winter weather. The children go outside for a daily recess throughout the winter.

Parents of K-2 students, please remember to send a snack to school with your child every day. They all eat lunch at or after 12:30 and it's a long morning.

At the present time, Influenza is sporadic in Connecticut. Please be sure to wash your hands frequently with warm water and soap. Remember the flu FACTS: F—fever, A—Aches, C—chills, and T—tiredness.

Influenza often has a sudden onset. Your child might feel fine in the morning and by noon, have a fever and cough. Please be aware that if a student is dismissed for fever and cough or sore throat, it is the policy in Manchester that they wear a mask in the school building while waiting for the parent to arrive.

The Nurse's Office is looking for donated clothing for the children to wear in case of an accident. Boys and girls clothing in all sizes would be greatly appreciated, and if the pants have elastic waist bands, even better!!

Thank you! Happy Holidays!!

Mrs. Hussey



Media Center

We are quickly approaching the most hectic time of the year. However your family celebrates this special season there just doesn't seem to be enough hours in the day to accomplish everything you feel you need to do.

But what does this season really mean to you? Why not take a breather and share some stories that will help your children to understand some of the many things they have to be grateful for. Books such as **Fly Away Home**, **Erandi's Braids**, **Christmas Makes Me Think** or **The Mitten Tree** tell about children who might not be as fortunate but are still willing to share what they have. Or perhaps you might just like to curl up together and enjoy a seasonal tale. Titles such as: **A Certain Small Shepherd**, **Yoon and the Christmas Mitten**, **Light the Light! A Story About Celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas**, **Seven Spools of Thread: a Kwanzaa Story**, **The Chanukah Guest**, **The Three Muslim Festivals** and **The After Christmas Tree**. So however you celebrate, slow down and enjoy this season as a family. And don't forget both Buckley Library and the Manchester Public Library have a collection of books, which you can read with your children. Thank you.

Happy Holidays.

Noreen Lake, & Donna Samborski



Café Time

Hello from the Cafeteria!

It's been nice to say we haven't seen too much snow, but it is only the beginning of December and more snow WILL come!! Please remember if there is a school delay, we will NOT be offering breakfast on that day. Mrs. Solito and I will be very busy getting lunch ready for our students. With a school delay, everyone should have time to eat breakfast at home.

A quick reminder, when sending money to the cafeteria to put on your child's account, please be sure the money is in an envelope with their name clearly written on the front and sealed. Please do this with a check as well.

With the holiday break coming soon, this is a good time to check if your child is missing a jacket or two, (maybe three!!). This time of year we usually have quite a collection of jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, etc. When you are at school for an event or conference, please stop by the cafeteria and check out our coat racks to see if you recognize any of these items. We usually set up tables in the front foyer during conference days and put all the lost and found there for easy viewing.

Mrs. Solito and I wish all of you a happy, safe, and healthy holiday, and Peace To One and All!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to stop by or call us at 860-647-3306. We are available from 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. or after we serve lunch from 1:45 p.m.—2:15 p.m. You can also call the Office of Food and Nutrition at 860-647-3462. The office is open every day from 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Thank you.

Mrs. Schuetz



PBIS Corner

The following students were selected to receive recognition for the month of November. They were selected as having shown exemplary behavior in one of the three PBIS categories. These students participated in a fun activity during our Fun Friday!

TEACHER	BE SAFE	BE RESPECTFUL	BE RESPONSIBLE
Mrs. Hoffman	Gavin Morris	Toby Johnson	Taylor Morison
Miss Lavallee	Luke Peffley	Julianna Kulpanowski	Jacob Budarz
Miss Patrylak	Makai Badeau	Lila Smith	Vanessa Miazga
Mrs. Bourcier	Camilla Ortega	Carina Brown	Raymond Martin
Ms. Seaha	Parker Agresta	Juda Kissi	Alexander Kusher
Miss Adams	Katie Maloney	Dominic Thompson	Katie Gagnon
Mrs. Strickland	Bhavya Patel	Paige Basquait	Cameron Major
Mrs. Edwards	Edward Zalewa	Myara Kharboush	Austin March
Mr. Murphy	Lindsay Jackson	Cayden Blaschik	Xavier Torres
Mr. Sweetland	Anthony Gonzalez	Amelia Dykstra	Eno-Yaa Kissi
Ms. Godbout	Sylvia Squatrito	Ethan Debaise	Madison Neil
Mrs. Hoke	Gillian Lamphere	Arjun Roy	Logan Tomic
Ms. Marocchini	Allissa Motowidlak	Ethan Zimmerman	Jaysen Stolarz
Mrs. Adinolfi	Megan Miagza	Jaydah Davis	William Thompson
Mrs. Jodoin	Katie Neubauer	Subhan Dalal	Stephen Gagnon
Miss Brahm	Daylin Robbins	Cheyenne Torres	Jamie Dykstra

These students received the Pillars Of Character for the month of November:

Mrs. Hoffman—Alyssa Puglise	Mr. Murphy—Daydrianna Matos
Miss Lavallee—Anna Smith	Mr. Sweetland—Caden Jolly
Miss Patrylak—Kylie Valdez	Ms. Godbout—Katherine Turley
Mrs. Bourcier—Gavin Tomic	Mrs. Hoke—Jacob Perez
Ms. Seaha—Loren Roca	Ms. Marocchini—Jack Bienvenue
Mrs. Rodowicz—Nicholas Stratton	Mrs. Lonergan—Micah Costin
Miss Adams—Mobeen Mian	Mrs. Adinolfi—Karli Bidwell
Mrs. Strickland—Tazim Rahman	Mrs. Jodoin—Joshua Lassen
Mrs. Edwards—Jaylon Hebert	Miss Brahm—Jack Larson

Congratulations to everyone who was recognized! When you are in the building, please stop by our bulletin board in the main foyer to see photographs of our exemplary Buckley Bobcats!!



Buckley School PTA News and Events

BuckleyElementaryPTA@gmail.com

Our next PTA meeting will be held

Thursday, Jan. 8, at 6:30 p.m.

in the Buckley cafeteria!

The PTA will hear from the second-grade teachers and their student representatives and find out what's going on in their classrooms. Come get an update on our plans for the late winter, including the Variety Show, January movie night, and Dairy Queen Dine Out Night. Children are welcome!

HOLIDAY STORE

The Holiday Store will be held during the school day on Friday, Dec. 19.

Students will be able to purchase gifts for the special people in their lives at amazing prices. Items range in price from 50 cents to \$5.

Please keep in mind that all students — kindergarten through 5th grade — will have an opportunity to come through the store and will have a short amount of time to do so. While there is no limit to the number of gifts each student is allowed to purchase, we ask that **everyone be considerate** of those shopping later in the day and of our volunteers who wrap each item.

FALL BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Fall Book Fair will be held the week of teacher conferences, from Monday, Dec. 1, to Friday, Dec. 5. Visitors will join the Readers of the Roundtable when they're transported to Sir Readalot's Castle in the school gymnasium. Hours are listed on posters hung throughout the school.

To volunteer for the Holiday Store or the Book Fair please email us at
BuckleyElementaryPTA@gmail.com

Save the Date!



www.clipart.dj · 13513

December 8, 2014
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Barnes & Noble Book Fair for Buckley School

Come enjoy books with your family, as you support this fundraiser,
and enjoy entertainment provided by our Buckley Talented Singers & Musicians!

We hope to see you on December 8, 2014
from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
at Barnes & Noble, Buckland Mall

Save the Date!



December 16, 2014
2:00-3:00

Buckley School Winter Concert
Buckley School gym!

